

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 261400Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2031

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USEC BRUSSELS 0209

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14071

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REQUEST BY FOREIGN CHIEFS OF STATE TO AVOID
FURTHER EXECUTIONS

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILLIE MORRIS HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE EEC AMBASSADORS IN ADDIS ARE RECOMMENDING TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS THAT THEIR CHIEFS OF STATE IMMEDIATELY SEND A COLLECTIVE MESSAGE TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THEIR CHAIR (FRENCH) EMBASSY HERE URGING THAT THERE BE NO FURTHER EXECUTIONS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WITHOUT TRIAL AT PRESENT. AMBASSADOR MORRIS INQUIRED WHETHER THE US MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND INQUIRE WHETHER THE USG WISHED TO SEND A SIMILAR MESSAGE.

2. I WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE DECISION OF THE EEC COUNTRIES ON THIS MATTER.

3. COMMENT. THE ISSUE POSED FOR THE US IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN IT IS FOR THE EEC COUNTRIES BECAUSE (1) WE WOULD NOT BE SPEAKING AS A MEMBER OF A GROUP; (2) IT IS THE US RATHER THAN THE EEC COUNTRIES WHICH IS OFTEN ACCUSED IN ETHIOPIA OF HAVING FAVORED, SUPPORTED AND MADE POSSIBLE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF
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THE OLD REGIME; AND (3) OUR BILATERAL TIE WITH ETHIOPIA HAS MORE

SUBSTANCE THAN THAT OF OTHER POWERS. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE
THE POLITICAL LIABILITY INVOLVED IN A CAREFULLY WORDED US PLEA
FOR LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS (PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO RELEVANT
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS/CHARTERS TO WHICH ETHIOPIA MAY BE A
PARTY) RATHER THAN SUMMARY EXECUTIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED
THAT THE EEC DOES INDEED FIRST DELIVER A COLLECTIVE MESSAGE OF
THIS NATURE.
WYMAN

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